

7 May 1999

Chris Niswander
POB 857
Oracle AZ 85623

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

0555 '99 MAY 12 AM 56

Re: Docket No. 98N-1038, Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food

Dear Sirs and/or Madams,

Morally, people have the right to choose what they put in their bodies. Individuals have a fundamental right to choose especially stringent standards for what they will put into their bodies. Why should the FDA try to attack my right to decide whether I will put radiation-treated food into my body?

Such food should be labeled clearly as treated with radiation. Not labeling such food destroys my ability to decide whether I will consume it. The kind(s) and amounts of radiation used should be specified. While the "radura" logo is possibly a good idea as a supplementary means of notification, the actual radiation used should be clearly indicated in actual words.

Treatment with X-rays, gamma rays, or alpha or beta particles should not be miscalled "pasteurization," which is a simple process of heating. Calling it "pasteurization" is dishonest and shows a lack of integrity.

Any organization that would consider dishonestly labeling radiation treatment as "pasteurization" has shown that it is so lacking in objectivity that it cannot be trusted to perform allegedly science-based evaluations of whether radiation treatment of food is safe. Science is based on integrity, not on the suppression of the facts. Any group that tries to suppress the facts merely shows that it is not practicing real science and that its utterances are unscientific. And if such unscientific groups start playing with hard radiation, that is a dangerous thing, as they have shown they are not competent to do so. They take technology based on science discovered by others, and play with it in a pseudoscientific fashion.

Please protect yourself and your fellow citizens from incompetent, biased pseudoscience. Don't trust any group that calls itself "scientific" but tries to suppress the truth about food irradiation. This includes factions within your organization or special interests who assure you that they know the scientific truth when they don't even know the meaning of science.

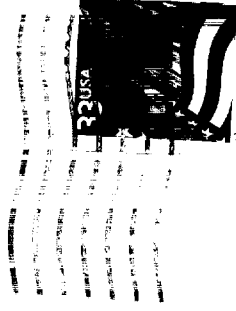
98N-1038
Sincerely,



Chris Niswander

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Christopher Niswander
PO Box 857
Oracle AZ 85623-0857



DOCKETS MANAGEMENT BRANCH (HFA-305)
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
5630 FISHERS LANE, ROOM 1061
ROCKVILLE MD 20852

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